

In the claims:

1. (Amended) **A conjugate** [~~Conjugate of~~] **comprising** [a] **an unglycosylated** tissue non-specific alkaline phosphatase (tns-AP) **comprising amino acids 18-504 of SEQ ID NO:4** and dextran, [~~obtainable by reacting unglycosylated tns-AP with activated dextran in aqueous solution, stopping the reaction and isolating the conjugate from the solution.~~]
2. (Amended) **The conjugate of** [~~Conjugate as claimed in~~] claim 1, **wherein the** [~~characterized in that a~~] tns-AP is [~~used as the unglycosylated tns-AP which has been~~] obtained by recombinant expression of a nucleic acid coding for tns-AP in a prokaryotic cell.
3. (Amended) **The conjugate** [~~Conjugate as claimed in~~] **of** claim 1 or 2, [~~characterized in that a~~] **wherein the** dextran **has** [~~having~~] an average molecular weight of 10 – 500 kDa [~~is used~~].
4. (Amended) **A method** [~~Process~~] for producing a conjugate [~~by~~] **comprising** reacting **an** unglycosylated tns-AP **comprising amino acids 18-504 of SEQ ID NO:4** with activated dextran by incubation in an aqueous solution, stopping the reaction and isolating the conjugate from the solution.
5. (Amended) **The method of** [~~Process for producing a conjugate as claimed in~~] claim 4, **wherein the** [~~characterized in that a~~] tns-AP [~~is used as the unglycosylated tns-AP which has been~~] **is** obtained by recombinant expression of a nucleic acid coding for **the** tns-AP in a prokaryotic cell.
6. (Amended) **The method of** [~~Process for producing a conjugate as claimed in~~] claim 4 or 5, **wherein the** [~~characterized in that a~~] dextran **has** [~~having~~] an average molecular weight of 10 – 500 kDa [~~is used~~].
7. (Amended) **The method of** [~~Process for producing a conjugate as claimed in~~] claim[s] 4 **or** [~~to~~] **5** [6], **wherein** [~~characterized in that~~] the **activated** dextran is activated with CDAP or CNBr.
8. (Amended) **The method of** [~~Process for producing a conjugate as claimed in~~] claim[s] 4 **or** [~~to~~] **5** [7], **wherein the** [~~characterized in that~~] unglycosylated tns-AP and **the** activated dextran are used for the said reaction in a ratio of 1:2 to 1:500.

9. ~~(Cancelled) [Use of a conjugate as claimed in claims 1—3 as standard in a method for the quantitative determination of alkaline phosphatase.]~~
10. ~~(Cancelled) [Use of an unglycosylated tns AP to produce a conjugate of unglycosylated tns AP and dextran.]~~
11. **(New) A method for quantitating alkaline phosphatase activity comprising:**
 - a) obtaining a serum sample from a patient;**
 - b) determining alkaline phosphatase activity in the serum sample;**
 - c) comparing the alkaline phosphatase activity in the serum sample to a standard comprising a conjugate comprising an unglycosylated tissue non-specific alkaline phosphatase comprising amino acids 18-504 of SEQ ID NO:4 and dextran; and**
 - d) quantitating alkaline phosphatase activity in the serum sample based on the comparison.**

Support for the Amendments

Most of the claim amendments were made simply to provide appropriate articles to introduce the claim, and to modify the dependencies of certain of the claims. These amendments do not introduce no matter.

The amendments to claims 1 and 4 with respect to the tns-AP are supported, for example, in the sequence listing (See SEQ ID NO:17 in comparison to SEQ ID NO:4), as well as in Example 1, particularly page 8 lines 1-6. Thus, these amendments do not constitute new matter.

New claim 11 is supported, for example, in original claim 9 as well as in Example 5, page 11 lines 5-27. Therefore, this new claim does not constitute new matter.

If there is any issue with respect to this application, the Patent Office is respectfully invited to call the below signed attorney at (312) 913-2106.

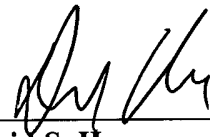
Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

7/21/03

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